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Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE AT THE 1000th FSC PLENARY MEETING

(9 February 2022)

Agenda item 3, Millennium Plenary Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-Operation

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine has aligned with the EU statement, which we fully support. Let me also make some remarks in my national capacity.

Today's 1000th Jubilee plenary meeting marks a significant milestone for the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation. Almost 30 years after our Forum was established at the Third CSCE Summit of Heads of State or Government in Helsinki it continues to provide all 57 participating States with a unique platform for a dialogue on different aspects of security in our common OSCE area.

In the face of the current challenging security environment in Europe, caused by the Russian armed aggression and temporary occupation of parts of Georgia and Ukraine, incomplete withdrawal of foreign troops from Moldova, military build-up on the borders and militarization of the Black and Azov Seas, the role of the Forum is highly relevant and even more important than ever.

The FSC proved to be effective within the past years and it is capable to contribute significantly to the improvement of the security situation by focusing on strengthening predictability, military transparency, stability, risk reduction, and incident prevention.

Enhancing military predictability and decreasing the risk of military incidents, be it within the established mechanisms or through adoption of new ones, would benefit everyone.

It is our strong belief that one of the instrumental ways to improve the situation in this area is the modernization of the Vienna Document 2011, which Ukraine strongly advocates. Full respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty of states, non-use of force or threat of use force in interstate relations, as well as the right to freely choose own security arrangements are vital prerequisites for rebuilding military stability in the region.

The spirit of Helsinki, the spirit of the Paris Charter and OSCE as a whole do not provide a place for revisionism and aggressive militant chauvinism as guidelines for practical foreign policy activities currently applied by a certain participating state. Europe must be free from a policy of neo-imperial expansionism. Europe must not be carved-up into "zones of interest" and "zones of influence".

Being fully devoted to the spirit of Helsinki, Ukraine proceeds from the premise that it is high time to reinforce our dialogue on how to settle existing conflicts, de-escalate tensions, and rebuild confidence and transparency in the OSCE area.

We are in favour of dialogue on the basis of equality and mutual respect so as to increase mutual understanding. Ukraine stands ready to engage into a dialogue on a wide range of issues, including relatively new ones such as hybrid warfare, artificial intelligence, etc.

Let me use this opportunity provided by the FSC millennium meeting to reiterate Ukraine's readiness to contribute to open, transparent and constructive discussions within the Forum for Security Co-Operation. We look forward to the continuation of our joint work to increase military security and stability in Europe.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.